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SOURCE Jen-min Jih-pao

CHINESE COMMUNIST PRESS DISCUSSES
IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW

[Summary: On 2 June 1953, an article emphasizing the need for thorough understanding of the National Economic Plan by industrial leaders and factory managers was published by the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao. This article in the Peiping paper quoted from articles that had been published in the Mukden Tung-pei Jih-pao. The Peiping paper charged that lack of understanding of the plan is an important reason for the failure to meet production goals. It also pointed out that a function of newspapers is to commend factories that are doing their work properly and to condemn those that are derelict.]

Our newspapers have stressed that "The National Economic Plan is Law." But our industrial leaders and factory managers have not completely accepted this doctrine and have not firmly grasped the idea of fulfilling the National Economic Plan. In our industries there are many who feel no responsibility along this line. This is one important reason why many plants do not run smoothly and do not completely fulfill the National Economic Plan.

Newspapers must proclaim the theory and back it up with concrete examples. A good illustration is a series of reports in the Mukden Tung-pei Jih-pao concerning Electric Equipment Factory No 15.

After long investigation of a series of production failures, this paper was able to fix the blame on Electric Equipment Factory No 15. From August 1952 to April 1953, this factory failed to do its part in meeting production needs and thus hindered other producing enterprises. In the matter of high-voltage switchboards alone, this factory's delay affected the building and production in 45 other plants. For example, Northeast

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Paper Mill No 3 ordered a switchboard for its new-type transformer to be delivered at the end of last year. But delivery was 3 months late, seriously affecting the new construction. The same thing happened in the Northwest, where the delay in equipping a hydroelectric plant threw into idleness thousands of workers whose factories depended on that plant for power.

The Mukden paper stressed that during national reconstruction, tardiness in one plant not only results in loss to that plant but also impedes other industries and the entire national effort. The Mukden paper then went on to analyze the causes for the default of factory No 15, saying: The leading cadres adopted a bureaucratic attitude in managing the factory. They did not study its operations carefully. They did not thoroughly understand the conditions of production nor the problems. Different parts of the factory did not understand or work with one another. As a result managing and planning were woefully inefficient and production was faulty. During February 1953, the factory machinery was idle 38 percent of the time. On the other hand, when it seemed that the year's quota would not be met, all hands, even the executives, were mobilized to produce goods.

The Mukden paper's revelations point to a condition that can be quite widespread. This condition is the gap between plant management and the demand for expanding production. The country's newspapers can at this point do a great work of education. Factory No 15 profited from the public exposure of its faults which were discussed freely by the workers. So did many other factories. From now on there will be better cooperation all along the line.

In national reconstruction, it is the newspapers' function to point out and commend factories that run smoothly and are doing their part; and also to expose plants that are derelict, showing the causes of failure and the road to improvement.

Some cadres say: "Basic construction comes first; production is no longer important." Our papers must show that neither can be neglected, and lay down the dictum that the national economic plan has the force of law.

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